

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD**

Grand Prix Motorcycle Race at Virginia City

EA-NV-030-03-019

File Code: Special Recreation Permit NV-03W-03002

Decision

It is my decision to authorize a Special Recreation Permit to the Virginia City Motorcycle Club to conduct the annual Grand Prix Motorcycle Race at Virginia City across public lands as described in the proposed action of EA NV-030- 03-019.

The decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below:

1. There shall be no motorcycle racing, Check Point or designated spectator area on a historic mill site tailing pile as a part of the event. The racecourse must follow established roads and trails located on stable soils.
2. There shall be no motorcycle riding or racing within the boundaries of the historic cemeteries.
3. One race event per year for the next five years may be conducted by an authorized permittee.
4. Each racecourse shall follow routes approved by the BLM, private landowners and the County.
5. Each race shall be of the same or similar character as the event analyzed.
6. Each race shall be conducted with emphasis on Minimum Impact to and rehabilitation of natural and cultural public and private resources.
7. Each race shall be conducted according to the organized racing association rules and regulations, County regulations and Ordinances unless otherwise waived by the County, and BLM Special Recreation Permit Stipulations for OHV/Motorcycle Race Events which also address post-event clean-up, route maintenance and use fee payments.
8. Each race shall be conducted in an organized manner assuring consideration, preservation and protection of public safety, natural, cultural and historic resources.
9. Should a racecourse segment require a change in location (for resource protection or public safety), the proponent shall co-ordinate that re-location and receive approval necessary from the BLM and/or private landowners prior to implementation of the re-location.
10. The BLM or an authorized representative shall monitor each event in order to observe event organization and safety, to document use, and to evaluate resource effects.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY FIELD OFFICE

AK 3/6/06

DETERMINATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
NEPA ADEQUACY

DNA No. NV-030-06-04

Documentation File: Recreation Permit # NV-030-06524

Applicant: Virginia City Motorcycle Club (VCMC)

Name of Proposed Action: Virginia City Grand Prix Motorcycle Race (s)
Annually for five years beginning April 29 & 30, 2006

Location of Proposed Action: Virginia City – Flowery Peak Area
T17N R21E S20 – 29; S32-36; T16N R21E S1-5

Description of Proposed Action

Proposed Action: Authorize the VCMC to conduct five, annual motorcycle races at Virginia City during 2006 thru 2010. This event has occurred for more than 30 years and is expected to continue.

Who: The Virginia City Motorcycle Club (VCMC). This annual event is conducted in partnership with Virginia City Visitor and Tourism to kickoff the tourism season.

What: A grand prix style motorcycle (dirt bike) race: multiple lap event totaling more than 100 miles for each rider. Each lap is approximately thirty miles long. Riders compete during an allotted timeframe of 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours. Racing occurs over two days. The different venues include: Saturday – Grand Prix for Amateur and Novice riders from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (appx 300+ riders complete 3 – 6 laps over the approved route);

Sunday is the Grand Prix race for Expert and Pro riders from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (appx 300+ riders complete 4 – 7 laps in the reverse direction over the same route as the Saturday race). Experts ride for the longer (3 ½ hour) timeframe.

Each race starts on Main Street in Virginia City. Riders line up in rows of ten riders each. Each row is started approximately 15 seconds apart. Route laps cycle through the Pit area located east of Main Street. Appx 3000 total rider laps are possible per annual event, depending upon the weather and soil conditions – rain or snow = less laps due to slower speeds.

Some overnight camping occurs in conjunction with the event at designated camp areas in town. Flagging and other event debris is cleaned up within two weeks following the event.

A Temporary Public Land Closure would be required for Public Safety and resource protection.

When: Race days are usually the last weekend of April. Previous events have been on Mothers Day (mid-May). Racing begins after 9:30 a.m. daily

Where: The race occurs along dirt roads, jeep trails, motorcycle trails, dry washes and some paved streets within and around Virginia City. Some of the routes cross private lands. Several route segments cross public lands. The VCMC is responsible for coordinating with the Storey County Sheriff, Commissioners and for notifying and acquiring permission from private property owners as needed.

Vehicles / Equipment: Dirt bike motorcycles for racing. ATV's, Jeeps and trucks are used for route patrol, flagging, maintenance and rescue along those route segments wide enough to support them. The SWECO tractor, a 4-foot wide mini-bull dozer may be used to recondition certain parts of the race course, with BLM supervision.

History: This would be the 34th thru 38th annual motorcycle races conducted in this area.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan:

Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 2001

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan because it is specifically provided for in the following decisions: N/A

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

Recreation and Land use Allocations: Section 8; Page 2.

Statement: Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities on public land under the administration of Carson City Field Office. All public lands under CCFO jurisdiction are designated open to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use unless they are specifically restricted or closed.

This proposed action is addressed in the following activity plan(s): N/A

Existing Environmental Document Review

This proposed action is addressed in the following existing BLM EA/EIS.

Name of Document: Virginia City Grand Prix Motorcycle Race EA

Document No.: NV-030-03-019

This EA has been reviewed against the following seven criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action.

1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing document.

The proposed action is the same as that described in the 2003 EA. The EA considered continuance of the action based upon the thirty year history.

2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.

All available motorcycle race routes and consideration of potential options east of Virginia City were evaluated in 1999 and in the 2003 EA. ~~Only the No Action Alternative was evaluated.~~ *7/1/06 3/2 4/06* All of the available routes evaluated were authorized for motorcycle race use. Each year the race route could consist of a varied combination of route segments.

3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.

The human and environmental conditions have not changed substantially since the preparation of the 2003 EA. Occupation of private lands continues. The permittee notifies affected owners. The community continues to favor the race event. Races have been conducted safely, according to BLM and local permit stipulations.

4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used are appropriate for the proposed action.

The 2003 EA followed the format recommended in the NEPA Compliance Guidebook produced by the Carson City Field Office, November 2002. The EA was reviewed by resource specialists and a Finding of No Significant Impact was determined. The Manager signed the Decision Record, which was contingent on 10 additional stipulations and monitoring requirements.

5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different from those identified in the existing document.

The impacts, direct and indirect, potential and cumulative, were addressed in the 2003 EA. Impacts will be the same or similar during the 2005 proposed action. The 2006 route will be a longer variation of the 2003, 2004 and 2005 event routes and will utilize more of the hard surface trails. The race may be conducted in opposite directions on each of the race days. This could further minimize impacts to the trail pathways.

6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.

The 2003 EA summarized previous NEPA documentation. The current proposal is a variation of previously approved routes all of which were presented in the 2003 EA. The cumulative impacts were adequately addressed in that document. Since the event has been occurring annually for more than thirty years, cumulative impacts are identifiable. The most obvious being that the event has continued to occur and the routes have been sustainable for continued usage.

- Prior to each annual event, the permit applicant sends letters to all private land owners within the vicinity of the race route. The applicant is also required to coordinate the event through the Storey County Sheriff and Commissioners and the BLM. Each year the applicant receives concurrence and authorization to conduct the event. The BLM sends out approximately 80 letters annually to the interested public, resource agencies and local resource specialists. The Commissioners have approved the event for 2005. The BLM has reviewed the proposed action and found no flaws. There have been no comments received from the public or resource specialists regarding the 2005 event.

I have reviewed the proposed action and have made a determination that it is or is not in conformance with the applicable land use and meets or does not meet the seven criteria addressed above.

Additional Site Specific Clearances Required:

[illegible]

J. Kristson
Environmental Coordinator

3/21/06
Date

Management:

It is my decision to implement the action, as described. The permit authorizes the Virginia City Motorcycle Club to conduct the annual Grand Prix Motorcycle Race over a term of five years when in compliance with permit stipulation and mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures: According to those that are a part of the 2003 EA.

Authorized Officer

Date _____

- 1) 2006 Race Route Map
- 2) Motorcycle Race Permit Stipulations
- 3) 2003 EA – Mitigation Measures